

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11, 12 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Katzri et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,639,901). Claims 3, 4, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katzri in view of Lorenz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,310,882). Reconsideration in view the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited reference teach, suggest or disclose: [a]method for transmitting generic information in an Ethernet Media Access Control (MAC) header comprising: receiving a packet, the packet including a MAC header and a payload; classifying the packet; determining relevant generic information for the packet; formatting an Ethernet frame and inserting the generic information into the type/length field of the Ethernet frame MAC header; and sending the formatted Ethernet frame to a destination based on the generic information in the MAC header” (e.g., as recited in claim 1).

The Office Action asserts that the limitation “determining relevant generic information for the packet” found in independent claim 1 is disclosed in the lines 1-4 of column 16 of Katzri. Applicant respectfully dissents. Lines 1-4 of column 16 state:

If the data frame received is untagged, i.e., no Tag Header Information in the Ethernet frame, then the LEC entity uses the LE_ARP cache table associated with the Port VLAN L Identifier associated with the LEC (step 132).

However, lines 56 of column 15 of Katzri state:

Similarly as with frames received over the Control Direct VCC, *the LEC must choose the appropriate one of the LE_ARP cache tables* when learning a ATM-MAC address binding from a frame received on a Data Direct VCC. This is accomplished by examining the data frame received (step 128).

Katzri then immediately proceeds to disclose the determination of which cache table is to be used in case of tagged or untagged data frames (please see column 15 line 61).

If the data frame received is tagged, i.e., comprises an Ethernet frame with Tag Header Information, then the LEC entity uses the LE__ARP cache table associated with the VLAN-ID specified in the Tag Header (step 130). In addition, when receiving a tagged data frame, the VLAN-ID parameters are passed to the Upper Layers in the LEC entity (step 131).

If the data frame received is untagged, i.e., no Tag Header Information in the Ethernet frame, then the LEC entity uses the LE_ARP cache table associated with the Port VLAN L Identifier associated with the LEC (step 132).

However, nowhere in the Katzri reference is the teaching suggestion or disclosure of “[a] method for transmitting generic information in an Ethernet Media Access Control (MAC) header comprising: ... *determining relevant generic information for the packet...*”, as specifically recited in independent claim 1. The cited sections are instead meant to disclose the selection process of appropriate cache tables when learning of specific addresses, and do not disclose the determination of what is relevant generic information for the packet. For further support of this claimed limitation, please see the description of Figure 3, beginning at line 5 of page 5 of the specification:

Fig. 3 shows a flowchart of a process for using the type/length field in an Ethernet header according to an example embodiment of the present invention. A 1500 byte IP packet is received on external connection W on blade 10, S1. This may be, for example, a point-point protocol (PPP) link. Any PPP encapsulation used on the external connection may be removed S2. The remaining portion of the packet is 1500 bytes long. *The packet may be classified S3, and the relevant tag/label specifying the external connection Y on blade 14 decided S4. An Ethernet frame is formatted S5, and the tag/label inserted as the type/length field S6. The Ethernet frame may be formatted containing the MAC address of blade 10 as source address and the MAC address of blade 14 as destination address. The remaining 1500 bytes may be used to store the IP frame.*

Therefore, since each and every limitation is not taught or suggested in the Katzri reference, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance and the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection should be withdrawn. Independent claims 11 and 15 include similar limitations and therefore are also in condition for allowance and the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection should be withdrawn. Claims 2-10, 12-14 and 16-18 depend from allowable independent claims and therefore are allowable as well.

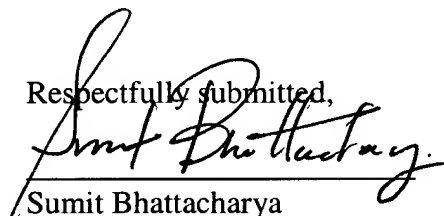
For at least all the above reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7500 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

Dated: November 3, 2004

By:

Respectfully submitted,



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